

ARE THE ROBBERS AND ABANDONED HOME.

The Bertine Family Decided
to Move Away from
Pelham Manor.

Holdup on Last Tuesday Night
Not Their First Experience
with Robbers.

Watchdog Tied Up and the Lower
Floor of the House Ransacked
a Month Ago.

POLICE STILL IN THE DARK.
Unable to Find Any Clue to the Highwaymen.
Mr. Bertine Able to Resume
His Work in This
City.

There is no further light on the attempt
at assassination and robbery that occurred
at Pelham Manor last Tuesday night, when
Mr. J. H. Bertine, a resident of that
place, was coming home from the depot
with his daughter and the coachman, and
three highwaymen suddenly confronted them.



The story in brief is that Mr. Bertine
received a severe bullet wound in the neck,
his horse was killed, the coachman took
to his heels and the robbers escaped with-
out securing anything. Three suspects
were arrested, but as neither Mr. Bertine
nor his daughter could identify them they
were discharged.

A visit to the home of Mr. Bertine, on
Echo Lawn, yesterday, found the family
in the midst of moving. They declared
that they had had enough of the country
and were going to leave for some more con-
genial locality with better police protec-
tion.

A significant incident of four weeks pre-
vious was related by Mrs. Bertine. She
said they were suddenly awakened one
night. Mr. Bertine went to the window,
and, seeing two men, inquired who they
were and what they wanted. For answer
they made off across the yard and fired
three shots as they went. Shortly after
they had disappeared, Jumbo, their New-
foundland watchdog, appeared with a frag-
ment of rope tied about his neck. The
noose end showed that he had chewed it
apart.

On the following morning the house
was carefully searched, and it was evident
that the burglars had gone through the
entire lower floor. They took away a bag
of silverware, which was subsequently
found in the yard, where they had dropped
it. The coachman's coat was also missing
and was found next day in a barrel in the
rear of the Summer kitchen. Another coat
of dark suit and pepper color was on
top of it. The strange coat contained a
plated gold pin, the match pocket, and
the right shoe contained a hole which
as though it had been made by a
bullet. It will be turned over to the police,
with about ten feet of rope, simi-
lar to the kind with which the dog was
ed, which was found in the pocket.

What surprises the Bertines is that any-
body could have become so friendly with
Jumbo as to tie him to a fence.

"The dog," said Mrs. Bertine, "is very
ingenious when strangers are around
him, and our neighbors will not visit
at night unless we have him chained
near them. Some of the neighbors
robbery last night, and the dog was
with them, and he barked and barked
and barked, but he never barked at
him. Every time he barked and barked
and barked, we could hear the missiles strike
him. Since that occurrence, he has
left the corner back of the Summer
kitchen for an instant, except to take his
food in small quantities. He gets a bone
and meat and goes back to his post. In
the last three weeks he has grown steadily
thinner and whines and growls all night
though he expected something more to
happen."

The coachman, John Royal, who so un-
consciously left Mr. Bertine and his
daughter when the shooting began on Tues-
day evening, informed Mr. Bertine yester-
day that the reins of the harness in use on
that occasion had been cut nearly in two
places, and that he was unable to hold the
coach when they were cut. It is not known
if the Mount Vernon police have been rather
suspicious of the speed displayed by Royal
on the night of the holdup.

"I had a pistol with me," he said yester-
day, "but it was wrapped up, and I was
afraid to take the time to unwrap it for
them, for they would shoot me down. It was
an Colt's weapon, a seven-shooter and
very reliable."

Mr. Bertine had to be so recovered from
his wound as to be able to return to his
business in this city yesterday.

BEAUTIFY THE STREETS.
Handsome Electric Light and Gas Lamp
Poles and Hydrants to Be Placed
Underground—Perhaps.

In the matter of ornamentation the
streets of this city are far behind many
European capitals. Civic pride is not
taking, for long before Rollin M. Squire
appears with his idea of making New York
the Hansmann made of Paris there was
a effort at beautifying the thoroughfares.
Official meetings were dispensed long enough
a clear away the unsightly wires of tele-
graph wires and how down the crooked
poles that were a disgrace to the city.

the \$44,900,000 drawn from the taxpayers
this year not 2 per cent has been applied
to removing street eyesores.

Recently General Collis, the Commis-
sioner of Public Works, indicated a desire
to get rid of the 3,500 electric light poles.
He was met at the outset with the sugges-
tion that there must be an Ethiopian
somewhere in the scheme. It was hinted
that the city would like to have pretty
light poles, but it did not care to pay for
them.

Another attempt will be made to over-
come this objection. Six of the large elec-
tric companies will meet to present more or
less elaborate designs for electric light
poles. Some of the drawings are now at the
rooms of the Architectural League. R. H.
Bowker, of the Edison Illuminating
Company, has recently accumulated a large
number of drawings, which he will place
at the disposal of his colleagues.

From these the experts will pick two and
hand them to General Collis. The design
most favored is similar to that adopted by
the City of Milan, Italy. It is about 25
feet in height, and is intended to carry
only a single high tension arc lamp, al-
though it can be constructed for double
lamps. It is not patented, can readily
be made safe for use in streets and ave-
nues. Its cost, from \$80 to \$100, is more
than many of the posts now in use, but the
city can buy them outright.

The design next in favor is like the ap-
paratus selected by the City of Paris for
the Avenue Clichy and the Boulevard Bar-
bes and Ornano. This is about eighteen
feet high, and its probable cost will be
between \$60 and \$80. In each case the
cost will include the necessary insulation
with some non-conducting material near
the top, and the switch for turning the
light off can be placed in the base of the
column, for use in emergencies.

Mr. Bowker states that such posts could
be put in and would introduce no more



technical difficulties than in the present
wires and iron affairs. They would be more
ornate. His company supplies only low-
cost lights, and therefore it would not
derive any special benefit from the adop-
tion of the proposed new posts. The stand-
ards, which carry the Edison lights now on
Fifth and Madison avenues, are not pat-
ented. Anybody can make them. But the
double lights above and the connections
of mechanism in the base are covered by
a patent. These posts cost only about
\$37.50 each. They are twenty-two feet
high.

The city can buy either these beautiful
styles outright or it can permit the com-
panies to charge 10 per cent a year of the
cost in their bills.

In order to secure a more handsome
style of hydrant for the city, General Collis
has requested inventors in all parts of the

country to send drawings and models to an
exhibition which will shortly be held in the
corporate yards, at the foot of East
Twenty-fourth street. He has already re-
ceived favorable replies to his circular
and expects to be able to obtain all the
latest and most practical devices. The ex-
hibition will be opened on Nov. 10, with
George W. Hilsenrath, Edward P. North and
Home Loomis, engineers of the Public
Works Department; Alonzo S. Gear, gen-
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HELD TOGETHER BY FORGED BONDS.

Names of Two Noted Crimi-
nals Brought Up by a
Recent Discovery.

William E. Gray, Once on Wall
Street, Sues a London
Paper for Libel.

His Contemporary in Crime Now Serv-
ing One of Many Terms in
Sing Sing.

EXPLOITS OF CHARLES WILLIAMSON
Bonds of His Handiwork Passed Current
in the Hands of the Most
Expert Money
Handlers.

After many years the names of Charles
Williamson, alias Perrine, and William E.
Gray have again been coupled together,
and in a manner most peculiar. A few
days ago a bundle of forged bonds for
about \$50,000 were picked up from among
the sweepings of a public building, and so
skilful were the forgeries that the officials

country passed them for a long time with-
out question.
Finally, however, the fraud was detected,
and two Wall Street concerns were carried
down because they had extensively carried
this bogus paper. About this same time the
New York Guarantee and Indemnity Com-
pany and the National Trust Company were
victimized to the extent of about \$100,000
through Williamson's forgeries. He was
warned in time to escape arrest and went
abroad, and was for the time being lost in
Great Britain. He returned to this coun-
try, and in 1875 was arrested for attempt-
ing to sell Rollins Brothers forged notes.
Something about the paper awakened their
suspicions when Williamson first called, and
he was told to return the following day. A
detective was awaiting him and he was
recognized as the notorious railroad bond
forger. He was sentenced to Sing Sing for
fifteen years.

Swindles the British.
He had not been in prison long before he
had worked out a clever scheme for escape.
On June 20, 1877, he and some other pris-
oners set fire to the prison bakehouse for
the purpose of creating a panic, and during
the ensuing panic he alone escaped. His friends
were in possession of thousands of dollars
of his ill-gotten gains, and they aided him
in securing passage for England.

He could not rid himself of his old ten-
dencies, and in 1878 he was arrested in
London as the author of forgeries on the
Union Bank, of London. He was
sentenced to ten years in an English prison,
but again he successfully planned a scheme
for gaining his freedom. In 1883 he turned
State's evidence and was released, after he
had been instrumental in causing the ar-
rest of all his former English pals.

The United States still attracted him.
In spite of the fact that he was a fugitive,
and he returned to New York. The metropoli-
tan police soon became too hot for him,
and he went to St. Louis. Here he set up
what appeared to be a successful
brokerage business, but on February 29,
1884, was caught in more of his crooked
schemes. He was travelling under the
name of George Vincent. As he was not
known to the police there his photograph
was sent over the country, and the pic-
ture was recognized by the New York po-
lice. He was brought back to this State,
and is now serving out his sentence in
Sing Sing.

Gray in a New York Prison.
The career of William E. Gray, who was
said by Inspector Byrnes to rank next to
Williamson, is scarcely less interesting.
Gray was the son of the minister who
was chaplain of the United States Sen-
ate from 1861 to 1869. The position gave
entree to the best society. After leaving
college he established a brokerage busi-
ness on Wall Street. He was indicted
in 1878 for forging certificates to \$80,000,
issued by the State of New York, for pay-
ment of bounties to volunteers in the
Mexican war. He gathered up all his funds
and went to England. He was extradited
during the ensuing year and sentenced to ten
years in Sing Sing. In 1881 his case was
carried to the Court of Appeals and he
was set free. He returned to London,
where he still lives.

Miss Ford's Funeral.
The funeral of Miss Nellie Ford, who was
for years a teacher in the grammar schools
of New York, and who was a commissioner
to the World's Fair, was held at St. Law-
rence Catholic Church, eighty-fourth street
and Park avenue, at 10 a. m. yesterday.
The mass was sung by the Rev. Father Mc-
Kinnon. The body was interred in Cavalry
Cemetery, being followed there by about
forty coaches.

Early Start in Crime.
Charles Williamson, whose real name is
Perrine, is fifty-six years old. He was born
in Monroe, N. Y., and comes of an excellent
family. His great executive ability and im-
posing appearance have stood him in good
stead in his nefarious business. He comes
of excellent family and for many years his
brother-in-law was at the head of an im-
portant financial institution in Wall Street.

He first came to the attention of the
police in 1861, when, under the name of
Stevenson, he was sentenced to the peni-
tentiary for four years for burglary. In
August, 1873, Williamson entered into a
gigantic scheme for the floating of fraudu-
lent bonds. It was mainly through his in-
strumentality that bonds to the amount of
\$100,000 were placed on the market. These
bonds were for Buffalo, New York & Erie
Railroad, and New York Central stocks. Dr.
Blaisdell and Steve Raymond were in-
terested in this scheme. Most of these
forgeries were Williamson's own handi-
work. So clever were the deceptions that
the most expert money handlers in the

country passed them for a long time with-
out question.
Finally, however, the fraud was detected,
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Gray was the son of the minister who
was chaplain of the United States Sen-
ate from 1861 to 1869. The position gave
entree to the best society. After leaving
college he established a brokerage busi-
ness on Wall Street. He was indicted
in 1878 for forging certificates to \$80,000,
issued by the State of New York, for pay-
ment of bounties to volunteers in the
Mexican war. He gathered up all his funds
and went to England. He was extradited
during the ensuing year and sentenced to ten
years in Sing Sing. In 1881 his case was
carried to the Court of Appeals and he
was set free. He returned to London,
where he still lives.

Miss Ford's Funeral.
The funeral of Miss Nellie Ford, who was
for years a teacher in the grammar schools
of New York, and who was a commissioner
to the World's Fair, was held at St. Law-
rence Catholic Church, eighty-fourth street
and Park avenue, at 10 a. m. yesterday.
The mass was sung by the Rev. Father Mc-
Kinnon. The body was interred in Cavalry
Cemetery, being followed there by about
forty coaches.

WERE FOUR WIVES KILLED? THE QUERY.

Analysis in the Case of Mrs.
Postel No. 4 May Cause
Disinterment.

Poisoning Suspected, but Postel
Denies It, and the Case Is
Far from Proved.

Strange Series of Marriages, with Death
Following Soon in Each
Instance.

DR. MAGUIRE HAD STRONG SUSPICIONS.
Wrote to the District-Attorney, but the Letter
Was Ignored—Postel Highly Spoken
Of by His Acquaintances
in Philadelphia.

Chester, Pa., Oct. 31.—District-Attorney
Schaffer has telegraphed the authorities
at Providence, R. I., that he will make
no further effort to have the body of
the late Mrs. Frances K. Postel brought
to Pennsylvania. He has requested that
a chemical analysis of the viscera be made
in Providence. If it is found that Mrs.
Postel's death was due to poisoning, the
bodies of the other three wives of Albert
H. Postel, all of whom are buried in
Laurel Hill Cemetery, near Philadelphia,
will be disinterred and autopsies held.

Until this analysis can be made the
charges against Postel remain in statu quo.
The case is a remarkable one. No direct
accusation has been brought, but the ques-
tion that the authorities of Delaware
County are grappling with is whether or
not Postel killed the four women to whom
he has been wedded within the last fifteen
years. Is he a remarkable criminal, or is
he the victim of a striking chain of
circumstantial evidence?

Postel lives in a nice house in the lit-
tle town of Wayne, near Philadelphia. He
has an office at No. 413 Walnut street,
Philadelphia, with the Aurora Fire In-
surance Company, of which he is presi-
dent. He is small and dark, with a
full brown beard and mustache, and a
keen, clear eye. He is a typical business
man in appearance, cool and collected, and
he weighs what he says thoughtfully. He
has been a great traveller, and has also
done considerable lecturing. He has an
illustrated lecture entitled "The Star of
Bethlehem; or, Jerusalem and the Jews."

Record of His Marriages.
Postel has married four times, and this
is the record in brief of his wives and
the causes assigned for their deaths:

First Wife—Mrs. Hannah W. Garden,
whom Postel married in July, 1881. Died
July, 1886, at Evenwood, Delaware County.
Dr. H. C. Palat, of Philadelphia, said
"stomach trouble" was the cause.

Second Wife—Isabelle Garden, daughter of
his first wife. Married her in April, 1888.
She died June 10, 1889, at Elwood, Baker
assigned "stomach trouble" as the cause.

Third Wife—Rebecca "Beck" Postel, married
June 17, 1891. Died April 22, 1892. Cause
not stated.

Fourth Wife—Mrs. Frances K. Postel, mar-
ried her in October, 1895. She was about
thirty years old when she died. The cause
of death was not stated.

Dr. Maguire, who attended her, said that
she died of "stomach trouble." The dis-
section was made by Dr. Maguire, and the
cause of death was not stated.

Dr. Maguire, who attended her, said that
she died of "stomach trouble." The dis-
section was made by Dr. Maguire, and the